

# Purity: A Conference

June 27, 2025  
University of Siegen  
Seminarzentrum Obergraben, US-S 0101

14:00 Introduction and welcome

## 14:15 Panel 1: Purity Cultures

"This morbid appetite is always the more despotic and imperious": Sylvester Graham and the Purity of Eating in the Antebellum Era

Maxi Albrecht, University of Siegen

Title TBA (online)

Anyamila Sulaver, Independent Scholar

"Pure? What does it mean?" Revealing Plath's Purifying Palimpsest in "Fever 103°" (online)

Megan Lester, University of Hamburg

15:45 Coffee Break

## 16:15 Panel 2: Purity and Fiction

Don't Worry you'll Die Pure: The Duality of Purity as Heroic and Villainous in 20th Century Comic Books

Niklas Müller, The Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies

Locating Monstrosity in Octavia Butler's *Fledgling*

Maria Odoevskaya, University of Siegen

Look At Your Face In The Mirror: Purity, Danger and Liberation In *The Phantom Of The Opera* (online)

Sarah Erik Sackville-McLauchlan, York University

17:45 Closing Remarks

18:30 Dinner: Namaste